

REMARKS

The Examiner principally applied the Shintani patent against the former claims of the present application.

The Shintani patent discloses a remote control 100 and a television (not shown) each having a transmitter and a receiver such that signals can be communicated between the remote control 100 and the television. The television can send a confirmation signal to the remote control 100 when a valid instruction is received by the television from the remote control 100. The television can send an error signal to the remote control 100 when an invalid instruction is received by the television from the remote control 100. The television can send a prompt signal to the remote control 100 when an instruction received by the television from the remote control 100 requires additional input in order to execute the instruction. The remote control 100 has a display 103 that can display a listing of sub-channels or an electronic program guide received from the television. The television can transmit commands from then remote control 100 to a peripheral device.

As can be seen, the Shintani patent does not disclose the television control system recited in independent claim 31. That is, the Shintani patent does not disclose communication between a host device and a plurality of dispersed televisions such that the host device transmits command signals to each of the televisions and such that each of the televisions transmits a confirmation signal to the host device upon performance of functions commanded by the command signals.

Nor is the system recited in independent claim 31 obvious over the Shintani patent. The Examiner has asserted with respect to canceled claim 20 that duplicating the television disclosed in the Shintani patent is considered to be an obvious modification of the arrangement disclosed in the Shintani patent.

However, even if duplication of parts were obvious as a general rule, the invention of independent claim 31 is not mere duplication and is not obvious here. When televisions are dispersed but controlled from a central point, it is important that the host device at the central point know that the dispersed televisions have received the commands transmitted by the host device and/or have performed the functions contained in the

commands. The Shintani patent does not disclose or suggest this importance and, therefore, does not suggest a system in which a host device is used to control plural dispersed televisions.

Moreover, the Shintani patent does not suggest any other reason for using the remote control 100 to control a plurality of dispersed televisions. Indeed, the functions performed by the remote control 100 (displaying sub-channels and/or an electronic program guide) are better performed if the remote control 100 operates with a single television.

Furthermore, the Shintani patent does not suggest sending the confirmation signals upon performance of functions commanded by the command signals.

Accordingly, for all of the reasons given above, the Shintani patent does not suggest using the remote control 100 in combination with a plurality of dispersed televisions. Therefore, the invention of independent claim 31 cannot be unpatentable over the Shintani patent.

Independent claim 43<sup>2</sup> is directed to a television signal transmission method comprising transmitting a command signal from a host device to each of a plurality of dispersed televisions directing the

televisions to perform a function, receiving at the host device confirmation signals from the plurality of televisions, and determining at the host device in the event that a confirmation signal is not received from one or more of the televisions.

As discussed above, the Shintani patent does not suggest using the remote control 100 in combination with a plurality of dispersed televisions.

Accordingly, because the Shintani patent does not suggest using the remote control 100 in combination with a plurality of dispersed televisions, the invention of independent claim 43 cannot be unpatentable over the Shintani patent.

Moreover, there is no suggestion in the Shintani patent of determining when a confirmation signal is not received from one or more of the televisions.

Accordingly, because the Shintani patent does not suggest determining when a confirmation signal is not received from one or more of the televisions, the invention of independent claim 43 cannot be unpatentable over the Shintani patent.

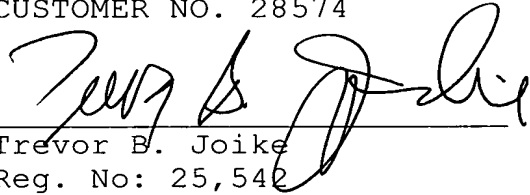
**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, it is clear that the claims of the present application patentably distinguish over the art applied by the Examiner. Accordingly, allowance of these claims and issuance of the above captioned patent application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

SCHIFF, HARDIN, & WAITE  
6600 Sears Tower  
233 South Wacker Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60606-6402  
(312) 258-5774  
CUSTOMER NO. 28574

By:

  
Trevor B. Joike  
Reg. No: 25,542

December 17, 2003